UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/47/L.46
20 November 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 79

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Malaysia: draft resolution

Establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/172 A of 19 December 1989, 44/228 of 22 December 1989 and other relevant Assembly resolutions, as well as decisions adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular the recommendation by which the Conference invited the General Assembly to establish at its forty-seventh session, under its auspices, an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, with a view to finalizing such a convention by June 1994, 1/

1. Welcomes with satisfaction the results and the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly chapter 12 of Agenda 21, "Managing fragile ecosystems: combating desertification and drought";

1/ See "Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992" (A/CONF.151/26), vol. II, para. 12.40.

2. Decides to establish under its auspices an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, taking into account proposals that may be submitted by States participating in the negotiating process, with a view to finalizing such a convention by June 1994, and welcomes the candidature of Ambassador Bo Kjellen (Sweden) for the chairmanship of the Committee;

3. Decides that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly;

4. Also decides that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, in addition to an organizational session, shall hold five substantive sessions, each lasting for two weeks, which will be held at Geneva, Nairobi, New York and, in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 40/243, Paris; the dates of these sessions will be determined by the Committee at its organizational session, subject to review of the timetable at the end of each negotiating session and taking into account the schedule of other related meetings;

5. Further decides that at the first session of the Committee in Nairobi, the first week be devoted to the sharing of technical information and assessments, involving experts, on drought and desertification;

6. Decides that provisions shall be made for an organizational session of up to one week to be held in New York not later than February 1993 in order to organize the work of the Committee and to elect the Bureau, which shall consist of a chairman, three vice-chairmen and a rapporteur, each of the five regional groups being represented by one member;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to establish as soon as possible an ad hoc secretariat of appropriate size and quality at Geneva, drawing, inter alia, on staff resources of the United Nations system in order to ensure that the ad hoc secretariat embodies requisite technical expertise to assist the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in the conduct of its mandate;

8. Invites the United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and other relevant international organizations dealing with desertification, drought and development to make appropriate contributions to the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in the conduct of its mandate;

9. Decides that the Secretary-General shall appoint as head of the ad hoc secretariat a senior official of an appropriate level who shall act under the guidance of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee;

10. Requests the Secretary-General, through the head of the ad hoc secretariat to prepare draft rules of procedure to be considered by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its organizational session;

11. Also requests the head of the ad hoc secretariat to make available to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at the first substantive session the most relevant and recent information available, in conformity with its mandates as stated in paragraph 2 of the present resolution;

12. Decides to establish a multidisciplinary panel of experts to assist the ad hoc secretariat and, under its authority, to provide the necessary expertise in the scientific, technical, legal and other related fields, making full use of the resources and expertise within and available to Governments and/or organizations of the United Nations system dealing with drought and desertification;

13. Decides that the negotiation process shall be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to a trust fund established specifically for that purpose for the duration of the negotiations and administered by the head of the ad hoc secretariat under the authority of the Secretary-General;

14. Urges Governments, regional economic integration organizations, and other interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to contribute generously to the trust fund;

15. Decides to establish a special voluntary fund, to be administered by the head of the ad hoc secretariat under the authority of the Secretary-General, to assist developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries, to participate fully and effectively in the negotiation process, and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to contribute generously to the fund;

16. Invites relevant or interested organizations, organs, programmes and concerned agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental, subregional and regional organizations to participate actively in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee;

17. Urges States to organize, in close collaboration with the regional commissions and national, subregional and regional organizations, activities to support the process of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee which would involve the scientific and industrial communities, trade unions, the relevant non-governmental organizations and other interested groups;

18. Invites the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to assist the countries covered under its mandate in their preparations and participation in the negotiating process and to mobilize resources for this purpose;

19. Invites all relevant non-governmental organizations and especially encourages non-governmental organizations from developing countries to contribute constructively to the success of the negotiating process in accordance with rules of procedure of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and taking into account procedures used in process of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

20. Requests the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to submit progress reports to the Commission on Sustainable Development and other appropriate bodies;

21. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and relevant scientific institutions;

22. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

23. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth session a sub-item entitled "Establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa" under an agenda item entitled "Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development".